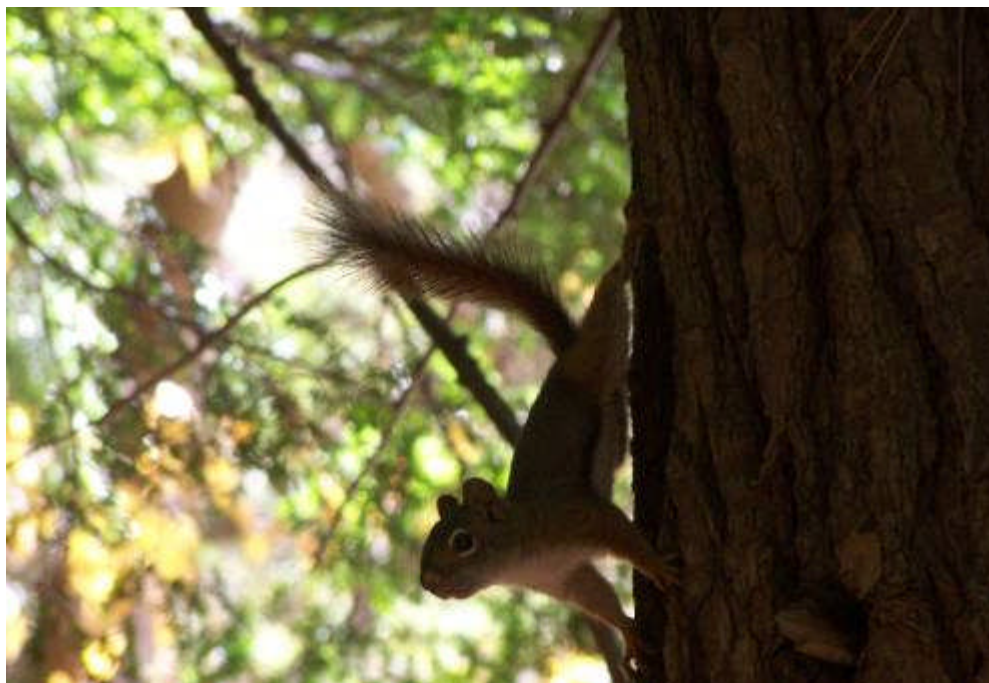


Chapter 5



Red squirrel: Erin Victory

Consultation and Coordination with Others

- Introduction
- Planning to Protect Land and Resources
- Partners Involved in Refuge Planning
- Contact Information
- Planning Team
- Other Service Program Involvement

Introduction

This chapter describes how we engaged others in developing this draft CCP/EA. In chronological order, it details our efforts to encourage the involvement of the public and conservation partners that include other federal and state agencies, county officials, civic groups, non-government conservation and education organizations, and user groups. It also identifies who contributed in writing the plan or significantly contributed to its contents.

A 30-day period for public review follows our release of this draft CCP/EA. We encourage you to respond with your ideas about the plan. During that period, we will host open-house public meetings at locations near the refuge to gather your opinions and answer your questions about our proposals. We will weigh your responses carefully before we write the final CCP.

According to Service policy, we must review and update our final CCP at least once every 15 years, or sooner, in response to important new information that would markedly change management direction or, our Director or Regional Director deem it necessary. If so, we will once again announce our revised planning and encourage your participation.

Planning to Protect Land and Resources

Our refuge planning began informally in August 2008 at an initial strategy meeting between the Refuge staff and regional planning staff. One major outcome of that first meeting was identifying individuals and agencies to contact for participation in the core planning team. We also established a preliminary meeting schedule for the planning team. Please contact the Refuge manager for additional details.

August 11, 2008: Letters are drafted to the NH FGD and other Service programs (Division of Migratory Birds and Ecological Services) inviting their participation in the core planning team. Coordination with NH FGD consists of emails and phone calls beginning in August 2008 as well as an official letter of invitation (sent on December 2, 2008).

September 5, 2008: The core planning team, consisting of Refuge and regional office planning staff, and a representative from NH FGD, meet adjacent to the Refuge at The Fells. We draft a vision statement, goals and objectives, identify preliminary issues, determine what additional resource information we need to collect and summarize, and discuss what other experts we should consult to help us address planning issues. We also schedule our partner and public scoping meetings.

September, 2008: We distribute a one page newsletter to approximately 50 people, organizations and agencies to announce formally the beginning of the planning process and the upcoming public meeting in October, and send out press releases that are published in the Valley News and Intertown Record to announce the public meeting. Invitation letters are sent out to seventeen people representing ten local and state agencies and organizations of potential interest to the upcoming partner meeting in October.

October 9, 2008: We host both the partner and public meetings at the Newbury Town Hall, having published notices about the public meeting in two local newspapers, in the newsletter, and via The Fells electronic newsletter list. We also encouraged town officials from Newbury, Sunapee and New London to post the meeting information on their bulletin boards, and to forward them to interested parties. Eight people representing five organizations were in attendance at the partner meeting, and three people signed in at the public meeting.

At each meeting, the draft vision, and goals and objectives are posted around the room, as well as the preliminary issues identified by the core planning team. A summary of the planning process is given, and people are encouraged to provide feedback to any of the presented items, or general concerns or issues they have about the Refuge. Comment forms are provided, and staff records comments on flip charts. People are notified that there is a one month comment period, closing on November 7, 2008.

December 11, 2008: The core planning team meets again at the NH FGD headquarters in Concord to identify key issues, and develop the strategies and alternatives for the document.

December 16, 2008: The Notice of Intent to initiate the CCP process for the Refuge is published in the Federal Register.

January-August, 2009: We update the website to summarize the public and partner meetings in October and the key issues identified at the December 2008 planning team meeting. We complete writing the five chapters and five appendice of the draft CCP.

September 2009-January 2010. The draft CCP goes through internal Service review.

February 2010. We prepare the final draft CCP for public release. The Notice of Availability is approved by the Washington office, and published in the Federal Register. The public meeting is scheduled for the end of the month.

Partners Involved in Refuge Planning

Refuge programs enjoy a great deal of support from outside the Service in many arenas: conducting biological surveys, enhancing public use and Refuge programs, restoring habitat, and protecting land. Our partnerships will continue to expand under the increasing interest in conserving refuge resources. During the past year, we contacted the following partners to apprise them of the planning process and encourage their involvement.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department: Glenn Normandeau, Charlie Bridges, Judy Stokes, Michael Racine

The Fells: Karen Zurheide

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests: Dave Anderson

Lake Sunapee Protective Association: June Fichter

Newbury Conservation Commission: Katheryn Holmes

New Hampshire Audubon: Phil Brown

Town of Newbury: Dennis Pavlicek, Donna Long

Town of Sunapee: Donna Nashawaty

Town of New London: Jessie Levine

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources: Elizabeth Muzzey

Contact Information

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<http://northeast.fws.gov/planning>

Planning Team

Andrew French, Project Leader, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Barry Parrish, Wildlife Refuge Manager, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Carl Melberg, Regional Natural Resource Planner, Planning Team Leader, USFWS Refuge System

Charlie Bridges, Wildlife Habitat and Diversity Program Administrator, Wildlife Diversity Division, NHFG

Other Service Program Involvement

Nancy McGarigal, Regional Natural Resource Planner, USFWS Refuge System

Rick Schauffler, Biologist/GIS Specialist, USFWS Refuge System

Sarah Bevilacqua, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Shelley Small, Cultural Resources Specialist, USFWS Refuge System

Thomas LaPointe, Refuge Forester, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Susi von Oettingen, Endangered Species Biologist, USFWS New England Field Office

Graham Taylor, Project Leader, Great Bay NWR Complex

Andrew Major, Contaminants Biologist, USFWS New England Field Office